

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments and comments herein. In the Office Action, claims 25-30 were allowed. Claims 1-5, 14-16, 18, 19, 23, 24, 31-33, and 38-43 were rejected. Claims 10-13, 17, 20-22, 34-37, and 44-46 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By the present amendment, claims 1, 9, 11, 14, 18, 23, 31, 35, 37, 38, and 42 are amended and claims 2-4, 8, 10, 22, 33, 34, and 44-46 are canceled. Claims 1, 5-7, 9, 11-21, 23-32, and 35-43 are pending in the subject application.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 10 and intervening claim 8. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable, as indicated in the Office Action. Allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested. Claims 5-7, 9, and 11-17 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are allowable as depending from an allowable claim and for the specific features recited therein.

Claim 18 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 22, which depends directly from claim 18. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 18 is allowable, as indicated in the Office Action. Allowance of claim 18 is respectfully requested. Claims 19-21 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 18 and are allowable as depending from an allowable claim and for the specific features recited therein.

Claim 23 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 45, which depends directly from claim 23. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 23 is allowable, as indicated in the Office Action. Allowance of claim 23 is respectfully requested. Claim 24 depends from claim 23 and is allowable as depending from an allowable claim and for the specific features recited therein.

Claim 31 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 34 and intervening claim 33. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 31 is allowable, as indicated in the Office Action. Allowance of claim 31 is respectfully requested. Claims 19-21 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 18 and are allowable as depending from an allowable claim and for the

specific features recited therein.

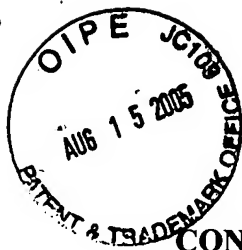
Claim 38 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 46, which depends directly from claim 38. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 31 is allowable, as indicated in the Office Action. Allowance of claim 31 is respectfully requested. Claims 19-21 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 18 and are allowable as depending from an allowable claim and for the specific features recited therein.

Claim 42 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 44, which depends directly from claim 42. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 42 is allowable, as indicated in the Office Action. Allowance of claim 42 is respectfully requested. Claim 43 depends from claim 42 and is allowable as depending from an allowable claim and for the specific features recited therein.

For the reasons described above, claims 1, 5-7, 9, 11-21, 23, 24, 31, 32, and 35-43 should now be in condition for allowance.

Claims 25-30 are allowed.

Serial No. 10/647,960



Docket No. NG(MS)6621

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and that the application be passed to issue.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

8/11/05

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